



## PURE LAND LEARNING COLLEGE ASSOCIATION INC.

MULTI-FAITH MULTICULTURAL CENTRE

EVERYONE MATTERS - TOOWOOMBA, A MODEL CITY OF PEACE & HARMONY



April 2018, Issue 74

### Harmony Tour



- From left: Shree Vishnu Maya Mandir, Amitabha Buddhist Association, and Brisbane Sikh Temple Gurdwara

Students from Darling Heights State School, Wyreema State School and St Monica's Catholic Primary School attended this year's Harmony Tour to places of worship on 2 March 2018, where they visited a Hindu Mandir, a Buddhist Temple and a Sikh Gurdwara. At each of the places of worship, the students were given a tour and a talk about the greetings, sacred texts and practices in that particular faith. Students on the tour were respectful and engaged throughout the day.

### Peacemaking Workshop



Peacemaking Workshop 8 March 2018

I am really pleased to have attended the the Faith-based Restorative Justice workshop with Dr Joseph Ozawa on 8 March 2018. Pleased because of its participatory nature. I felt welcomed and included into the workshop. Joseph presented case studies on some key issues around justice, restorative justice and faith-based restorative justice for us to consider. The group of about 30 of us included active workers in this field, faith-based participants and police also working in this arena. We were invited to ask questions and give input, creating a place for free discussion.

Joseph presented a very human face in sharing some very real cases. He also shared the environment in which the cases occurred, allowing us to feel being there with him. The time to both reflect and consider group responses allowed me to see a larger perspective on the issues raised and the humanity of the victims and the perpetrators. I am grateful to have participated in the workshop and would definitely attend another one.

Steve Smith

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Check out more photos on  [mmc.Toowoomba](https://www.facebook.com/mmc.Toowoomba) - For upcoming activities and programs, please visit [www.interfaith-harmony.org](http://www.interfaith-harmony.org) - call us at +617 4659 8054, or email us [mfmcc.pllc@gmail.com](mailto:mfmcc.pllc@gmail.com)





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## National Interfaith Peace Conference 2018

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I would like to summarise the Conference with a few thoughts on what we have learned during the two days and also how the dinner fit into the overall event. First, the message by all the speakers and participants were loud and clear for us: we have to embrace our faiths with proper knowledge. Proper knowledge could play a vital role in strengthening our social trust through commonalities and differences.



From left: Venerable Wu Dao, Cr Mayor Paul Antonio, Most Reverend Robert M McGuckin and Venerable Master Chin Kung AM



From left: Scott McGrath, Syed Ahmad Al-Attas, Sophie Ryan and Dr Joseph Paul Ozawa who chaired the unconference dialogue with panel members John Agnew, Imam Abdul Kader and The Revd Canon Richard Tutin



From left: Q&A session with members of Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group chaired by Nicole Rangira, and Sophie Ryan chaired the youth plenary session with speakers Zahra Aria, Connie Qu, Mahsa Nabizada, Yentle Rangira, and Rahila Abdul Hadi

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I believe that the content of the conference also tackled issues on today's digitalised world. The speakers paid great attention to what currently forms the essence of religion, and both participants as well as speakers agreed that they must step up to broadcast the positive news in the name of religion across the world. In addition, the un-conference approach somehow managed to unfold away from conferences which may not produce wider topics and practical recommendations that can be implemented. Participants were more vocal and frank in expressing their views to one another.



The conference's dinner was an excellent idea. The spirit of joy, happiness and love were seen and this remind me of one of our Islamic teachings that is to be positive, to respect one another and to show our best behaviour (akhlaq) always. I sincerely hope that as the President of Islamic Interfaith of Toowoomba, we could organise similar forums and conferences as part as our inclusiveness in this diverse Australian societies. To conclude, let me just say we all seek to listen to one another, to better serve our family, and to better serve our communities.



Syed Ghazaly Syed Agil  
Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group

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